

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of determining *in vivo* metabolism of one or more sugars or fatty acids in an individual, said method comprising:

- (a) administering one or more a quantity of ^2H -labeled sugars or ^2H -labeled fatty acids to an individual, said quantity comprising an absolute amount of ^2H for a sufficient time for said one or more ^2H -labeled sugars or ^2H -labeled fatty acids to produce ^2H -labeled water;
- (b) obtaining one or more bodily tissues or fluids at one or more times from said individual, wherein said one or more bodily tissues or fluids comprise a portion of said ^2H -labeled water;
- (c) detecting an abundance of one or more mass isotopomers of said ^2H -labeled water; and ^2H present in said portion of said ^2H -labeled water to quantify an absolute amount of ^2H released into body water; and
- (d) applying combinatorial analysis to determine the metabolism of said one or more sugars or fatty acids in said individual, based on said abundance of one or more mass isotopomers of said ^2H -labeled water calculating a ratio of said absolute amount of ^2H released into body water to said absolute amount of ^2H administered to determine said metabolism of said one or more of sugars or fatty acids in said individual.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more quantity of ^2H -labeled sugars comprise ^2H -labeled glucose.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 2, wherein said ^2H -labeled glucose is selected from the group consisting of $[6,6-^2\text{H}_2]\text{glucose}$, $[1-^2\text{H}_1]\text{glucose}$, and $[1,2,3,4,5,6-^2\text{H}_7]\text{glucose}$.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more quantity of ^2H -labeled sugars or ^2H -labeled fatty acids are administered by a technique selected from the group consisting of oral, gavage, intraperitoneal, intravascular, and subcutaneous administration.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein said one or more quantity of ^2H -labeled sugars or ^2H -labeled fatty acids are administered orally.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said individual is a mammal.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein said mammal is selected from the group consisting of humans, rodents, primates, hamsters, guinea pigs, dogs, and pigs.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 7, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more bodily tissues or fluids are selected from the group consisting of blood, urine, saliva, and tears.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more bodily tissues or fluids are selected from the group consisting of liver, muscle, adipose, intestine, brain, and pancreas.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, comprising the additional step of partially purifying said portion of said ^2H -labeled water from said one or more bodily tissues or fluids.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The method of claim 11, comprising the additional step of isolating said portion of said ²H-labeled water from said one or more bodily tissues or fluids.

Claims 13 – 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, comprising the additional step of calculating a proportion or storage rate of administered ²H-labeled fatty acids undergoing fatty acid oxidation.

Claims 25 – 27 (Cancelled).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising calculating a rate or total amount of incorporation of ²H into said ²H-labeled water.

Claim 29 – 30 (Cancelled).

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said ²H-labeled water is detected by methods selected from the group consisting of gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry, gas chromatography-pyrolysis-isotope ratio/mass spectrometry, gas chromatography-combustion-isotope ratio/mass spectrometry, cycloidal mass spectrometry, Fourier-transform-isotope ratio (IR)-spectroscopy, near IR laser spectroscopy, and isotope ratio mass spectrometry.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said detecting step is accomplished by detecting one part ²H in 10^7 parts water.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said determining of said metabolism is used as a surrogate marker for FDA approval of drugs.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said determining of said metabolism is used for clinical management of patients.

Claim 36 (Cancelled).

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said determining of said metabolism further comprises identifying individuals at risk for insulin resistance and diabetes mellitus.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said determining of said metabolism further comprises diagnosing high-fat diet-induced obesity.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said determining of said metabolism further comprises identifying individuals at risk for high-fat diet-induced obesity.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said determining of said metabolism further comprises the step of monitoring the effects of interventions to prevent or reverse insulin resistance, diabetes mellitus and high-fat diet-induced obesity.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps selected from the group consisting of diagnosing and treating wasting disorders.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps selected from the group consisting of diagnosing and treating hypoglycemia.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps selected from the group consisting of diagnosing and treating glycogen storage disease.

Claims 44-67 (Cancelled).